SENATE HIGHWAYS

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TRADING CITY LIGHTS FOR THE RV LIFESTYLE.

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Truck Classification

Knowledge of truck classes and categories is not required for recreational vehicle towing, but it is very helpful when communicating with each other, service shops, and to understand regulations affecting vehicles on public roads.

See Also

Tow Vehicle Sizing
Understanding RV Weights
Large RV-Towing Truck Issues

There are two classifications most applicable to RV tow trucks. First, the weight classes, as defined by the US government, ranging from Class 1 to Class 8. Second, the following broader categories:

- Light Duty Truck
- Medium Duty Truck
- Heavy Duty Truck

Weight Classes & Categories

Weight classes are defined by the US government and are used consistently throughout the industry. They are based on the truck's GVWR, or in the trucking industry on GVW plus average cargo weight.

Categories, on the other hand, are not as well defined. The same truck may be considered a **heavy duty truck** by one segment of the industry, and a **medium duty truck** by another.

Our research shows that the most often used official categories are derived from the *US DOT Vehicle Inventory and Use Survey* (**VIUS**). We indicate the VIUS truck categories in the fourth table column below. However, service shops, truckers, insurance companies, and seasoned RVers define some category boundaries differently than VIUS; therefore, in the last column we included the commonly used categories.

A good example of category disagreement are the one ton pickup trucks, some of which have a GVWR above 10,000 lbs. Based on the GVWR, these trucks are considered Class 3 and have a VIUS category of Medium-duty. However, few people would consider a one ton pickup anything but a Duty Truck.

Weight Class	Minimum GVWR (lbs)	Maximum GVWR (lbs)	VIUS * Category	Common Category
Class 1		6,000	Light-duty	Light Duty
Class 2	6,001	10,000	Light-duty	Light Duty
Class 3	10,001	14,000	Medium-duty	Light Duty
Class 4	14,001	16,000	Medium-duty	Medium Duty
Class 5	16,001	19,500	Medium-duty	Medium Duty
Class 6	19,501	26,000	Light-heavy	Medium Duty
Class 7	26,001	33,000	Heavy-heavy	Heavy Duty
Class 8	33,001		Heavy-heavy	Heavy Duty

^{*} VIUS: US DOT Vehicle Inventory and Use Survey

In the table below, we have listed common RV tow truck models and their classification. Please be aware that the table illustrates the full range of each model. Vehicle sub-model and options affect the actual category that a specific truck falls into.

Weight Class »							8	
Common Category »		ht	M	led	ium	H	eavy	7
Chevrolet Silverado 1500	2							
Chevrolet Silverado 2500HD	2	2						
Chevrolet Silverado 3500	2	3						
Dodge Ram 1500	2							
Dodge Ram 2500	2							
Dodge Ram 3500	2	3						
Dodge Ram 3500 Chassis Cab		3						
Dodge Ram 4500 Chassis Cab			4					
Dodge Ram 5500 Chassis Cab				5				
Ford F-150	2							
Ford F-250	2							
Ford F-350		3						
Ford F-450			4					
Ford F-550				5				
Ford F-650					6	7		
Ford F-750						7		
GMC Sierra 1500	2							
GMC Sierra 2500HD	2							
GMC Sierra 3500	2	3						
GM C4500			4	5				
GM C5500				5	6			
GM C6500					6	7		
GM C7500					6	7	8	
GM C8500						7	8	
Semi trucks							8	

Classification based on published manufacturer data available on 3/28/2009.

Commercial driver's license

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

This article is about the Commercial Driver's License. For other uses, see CDL (disambiguation).

A Commercial Driver's License (CDL) is a driver's license required in the United States to operate any type of vehicle which has a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 26,001 lb (11,793 kg) or more for commercial use, or transports quantities of hazardous materials that require warning placards under Department of Transportation regulations, or that is designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver. This includes (but is not limited to) tow trucks, tractor trailers, and buses. [1]



A Commercial Driver's License is required to operate a tractor-trailer for commercial use.

The Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986 was signed into law on October 27, 1986. The primary intent of the Act was to improve highway safety by ensuring that truck drivers and drivers of tractor trailers and buses are qualified to drive Commercial Motor Vehicles (CMVs), and to remove drivers that are unsafe and unqualified from the highways. The Act continued to give states the right to issue CDLs, but the federal government established minimum requirements that must be met when issuing a CDL.^[2]

Contents

- 1 Pre-1986
- 2 Class definitions
- 3 Endorsements
- 4 Test requirements
- 5 Testing facilities
- 6 Contents
- 7 CDLIS Clearinghouse
- 8 If Convicted while driving a CMV
- 9 CDL Training in United States
- 10 United Kingdom
- 11 Australia
 - 11.1 Australian license classes
 - 11.2 Medical standards
 - 11.3 Paying passengers
- 12 New Zealand
- 13 See also
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Pre-1986

Driving commercial motor vehicles (CMVs), which are primarily tractor-trailers (or Longer Combination Vehicles (LCVs)), [3] requires advanced skills and knowledge above and beyond those required to drive a car or other light weight vehicle. Before implementation of the Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Program in 1986, licensing requirements for driving larger vehicles and buses varied from state to state.

Many drivers were operating motor vehicles that they may not have been trained or qualified to drive. [citation needed] This lack of training resulted in a large number of preventable traffic deaths and accidents. [4]

Class definitions

Since April 1, 1992, when this Act became law, all drivers have been required to have a CDL in order to drive a Commercial Motor Vehicle. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has developed testing standards for licensing drivers. U.S. states are able to issue CDLs only after a written and practical test have been given by the State or approved testing facility.

A driver needs a CDL if the vehicle meets one of the following definitions of a CMV:^[5]

Class A truck

Any combination of vehicles with a GVWR of 26,001 or more pounds (11,793 kg) provided the GVWR of the vehicle(s) being towed is in excess of 10,000 pounds (4536 kg).

Class B truck

Any single vehicle with a GVWR of 26,001 or more pounds (11,793 kg), or any such vehicle towing a vehicle not in excess of 10,000 pounds (4536 kg) GVWR.

Class C truck

Any single vehicle, or combination of vehicles, that does not meet the definition of Class A or Class B, but is either designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver, or is placarded for hazardous materials.

A state may also require a driver to have a CDL to operate certain other vehicles legally. A driver licensed in New Jersey must have a CDL to drive legally a bus, limousine, or van that is used for hire, and designed to transport 8 to 15 passengers. ^[6] A driver licensed in New York must have a CDL to legally transport passengers in school buses and other vehicles listed in Article 19-A of the state's Vehicle and Traffic Law. ^[7] A driver licensed in California must have a CDL if his primary employment is driving, whether or not you actually drive a commercial vehicle. Basically, California defines a commercial vehicle as one that transports for hire either people or products. ^[8] And possession of a CDL in California changes the threshold for a Driving Under the Influence citation from 0.08% to 0.04% Blood Alcohol Content (even if he is not using his Commercial privileges at the time of the offense, for example while driving his personally owned vehicle). ^[9]



U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration FORMS | CONTACT US | MEDIA | FMCSA PORTAL | DOT.GOV

Search All FMCSA Sites

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Medical Expert Panels

Drug & Alcohol Testing

NAFTA Rules

Hours-of-Service (HOS)

Commercial motor vehicle groups.

Regulations current to Feb 12, 2013

Search ALL Regulations

for

Examples: Medical Form, 391.53, 391

★ All Regulations

₱ Part 383

< 383.79

Subpart F - Vehicle groups and endorsements

§ 383.91 Commercial motor vehicle groups.

Related Links Disclaime Interpretation Help

- (a) Vehicle group descriptions. Each driver applicant must possess and be tested on his/her knowledge and skills, described in subpart G of this part, for the commercial motor vehicle group(s) for which he/she desires a CDL. The commercial motor vehicle groups are as
- (1) Combination vehicle (Group A)—Any combination of vehicles with a gross combination weight rating (GCWR) of 11,794 kilograms or more (26,001 pounds or more) provided the GVWR of the vehicle(s) being towed is in excess of 4,536 kilograms (10,000 pounds)
- (2) Heavy Straight Vehicle (Group B)-Any single vehicle with a GVWR of 11,794 kilograms or more (26,001 pounds or more), or any such vehicle towing a vehicle not in excess of 4,536 kilograms (10,000 pounds) GVWR.
- (3) Small Vehicle (Group C)—Any single vehicle, or combination of vehicles, that meets neither the definition of Group A nor that of Group B as contained in this section, but that either is designed to transport 16 or more passengers including the driver, or is used in the transportation of materials found to be hazardous for the purposes of the hazardous materials as defined in § 383.5
- (b) Representative vehicle. For purposes of taking the driving test in accordance with §383.113, a representative vehicle for a given vehicle group contained in §383.91(a), is any commercial motor vehicle which meets the definition of that vehicle group
- (c) Relation between vehicle groups. Each driver applicant who desires to operate in a different commercial motor vehicle group from the one which his/her CDL authorizes shall be required to retake and pass all related tests, except the following:
- (1) A driver who has passed the knowledge and skills tests for a combination vehicle (Group A) may operate a heavy straight vehicle (Group B) or a small vehicle (Group C), provided that he/she possesses the requisite endorsement(s); and
- (2) A driver who has passed the knowledge and skills tests for a heavy straight vehicle (Group B) may operate any small vehicle (Group C), provided that he/she possesses the requisite endorsement(s).
- (d) Vehicle group illustration. Figure 1 illustrates typical vehicles within each of the vehicle groups defined in this section.

[Note: Certain types of vehicles, such as passenger and doubles/tripler will require an endorsement. Please consult text for particulars.]

*Description:

Any combination of vehicles with a GCWR of 26,001 or more pound provided the GVWR of the vehicle(s) being towed is in excess of 10,000 pounds. (Holders of a Group A license may, with any appropriate endorsements, operate all vehicles within Groups B and

Examples include but are not limited to:



Any single vehicle with a GVWR of 28,001 or more pounds, or any vehicle towing a vehicle not in excess of 10,000 pounds GVWR vehicle towing a vehicle not in excess of 10,000 po ers of a Group B license may, with any appropriate sements, operate all vehicles within Group C.)

Examples include but are not limited to:



Any single vehicle, or combination of vehicles, that does not me the definition of Group A or Group B as contained therein, but that either is designed to fransport 16 or more passengers including the driver, or is placar

Examples include but are not limited to



The representative vehicle for the skills test must meet the written description for that group. The silhouettes typify, but do not fully cover, the types of vehicles falling within each group.

Programs & Divisions News About Sitemap







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Commercial Driver Licensing

Motor Vehicle Division Commercial Driver Licensing

New & Out-of-State Applicants | Commercial License Types & Classes | Commercial License Fees | Commerical License Endorsements | Renewals | Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

Commercial driver license (CDL) knowledge tests are given at all driver exam stations. The driver exam station schedule lists which stations provide commercial road tests for Class A, B and C licenses. Some driver exam stations require appointments; for these stations you can schedule your CDL knowledge test through online appointment scheduling. Once you have your CDL learner permit, you can use online appointment scheduling for your pre-trip, skills and road tests at some exam stations. See the driver exam station schedule for locations that have online scheduling. To schedule pre-trip, skills and road tests at other exam stations, contact the MVD Customer Service Center at (866) 450-8034.

Please be prepared to pay for your license with cash or check (U.S. funds only), since credit cards are not accepted.

Information on regular, non-commercial class D licenses, learner permits and motorcycle endorsements is available on the Driver Licensing page.

Commercial drivers need to be familiar with the Montana Commercial Driver License Manual and with new medical certification requirements

New and Out-of-State Applicants

Commercial driver license (CDL) applicants who do not have a regular, class D Montana driver license or who are transferring an out-of-state license must provide:

- the required documents
 - m proof of identity
 - proof of Montana residency
 - proof of authorized presence
 - proof of Social Security number
- valid Department of Transportation (DOT) medical card

Commercial driver license (CDL) applicants who do have a regular, class D Montana driver license must provide:

- proof of Social Security number
- valid Department of Transportation (DOT) medical card

Types and Classes of Commercial Licenses

CDL Items

CDL Medical Certification

Divisional Resources

Appointment Scheduling

County Treasurer Motor Vehicle Offices

Driver Exam Stations

Driver License Sanctions

Driver Licensing

Commercial Driver Licensing

Driving Records

Forms and Other Documents (MVD)

Driving Safety

Insurance and Verification

License Plates

License Plate Designs and Fees

MVD by the Numbers

Other Resources

Required Documents

Vehicle Title and Registration

Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)

Inspections

Attorney General Info

Attorney General Fox's Page

Type 1 Certification allows a driver to operate a commercial motor vehicle in interstate commerce

Select Language

per year, plus the 50 defiltree of mailing the incluse renewal lemma | Sitemap | Sitemap | Type 3 Certification allows a driver to appear a contract of the sitemap | Sitemap |

Type 2 Certification allows a driver to operate a commercial motor vehicle in intrastate (only within the state of Montana) commerce, and costs \$8.50 per year, plus the 50-cent fee for mailing the license renewal reminder.

Class A License allows the holder to operate any combination of vehicles, including:

- a vehicle exceeding 26,000 GVWR that is towing a trailer over 10,000 pounds
- articulated buses with a GCVWR exceeding 26,000 pounds
- any vehicle authorized to be driven under Class B, C or D

Note: Pre-trip, skill and road testing must be completed in the type of vehicle comparable to the vehicle that you intend to drive. Drivers testing in a towing unit that has a GVWR less than 26,001 pounds will receive an NT restriction (the trailer must have a GVWR of 10,001 to qualify for Class A testing). The NT restriction indicates that you are not valid to operate a semi-tractor trailer.

Class B License allows the holder to operate:

- a vehicle exceeding 26,000 GVWR that is towing a trailer at/or under 10,000 pounds GVWR
- a school bus, or any bus or other vehicle hauling 16 or more passengers, including the driver
- all vehicles under Class C or D

Class C License allows the holder to operate:

- a single vehicle under 26,000 pounds
- a vehicle that hauls hazardous materials in an amount sufficient to require placarding under Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 391
- a school bus, or any vehicle that hauls 16 or more passengers, including the driver

Commercial License Fees

Fees for Intrastate Commercial Driver Licenses*

Customer Age (years)	Driver Licensing Fee	Total Fee with a Motorcycle Endorsement	Length of CDL (years)
18	\$26.00	\$27.50	3
19	\$17.50	\$18.50	2
20	\$9.00	\$9.50	1
21-70	\$43.00	\$45.50	5
71	\$34.50	\$38.50	4
72	\$26.00	\$27.50	3
73	\$17.50	\$18.50	2
74	\$9.00	\$9.50	1
75 & older	\$34.50	\$38.50	4

Fees for Interstate Commercial Driver Licenses*

File:05-07 Toyota Tacoma Double Cab TRD.jpg

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Light - Class]

Summary

Description 2005-2007 Toyota Tacoma photographed in USA.

Date 5/20/07

Source Own work

Author IFCAR

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Summary

Description English: 2001 Ford Excursion 4x4

Date 30 August 2007

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Author Dana60Cummins

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1 of 3

File: '99-'04 Ford F-350.jpg

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Summary

Light - Class 3 GUERR 1900 1 - MARCO Description 1999-2004 Ford F-350 Super Duty photographed in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Date 07/27/07.

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Author Bull-Doser

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Medium - Class 4 GywR = 14001 to 1600

Summary

Description English: 2008 4x4 Ford F-450 Pick up truck.

Date 15 August 2009

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Author Dana60Cummins

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File:4x4 Kodiak.jpg



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MCd um - Class S

Summary

Description English: Kodiak 4x4 with 5 wheel/utility box

Date 30 August 2007

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Author Dana60Cummins

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File:Class 6 Fords.jpg

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BYWK 19501

Summary

Description English: 2002 Ford F-650 in front. 1989 Ford F-600 in back. Both Class 6 trucks. F-650

GVWR:26,000. F-600 GVWR:20,200

Date 30 July 2011

Source Own work

Author Dana60Cummins

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File:Peterbilt 330 dump with dirt tub dump body.JPG

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Summary

Description English: A Peterbilt 330 dump truck, this one equipped with a "dirt tub" dump body.

Date 13 June 2012

Source Own work

Author Burningsaviour

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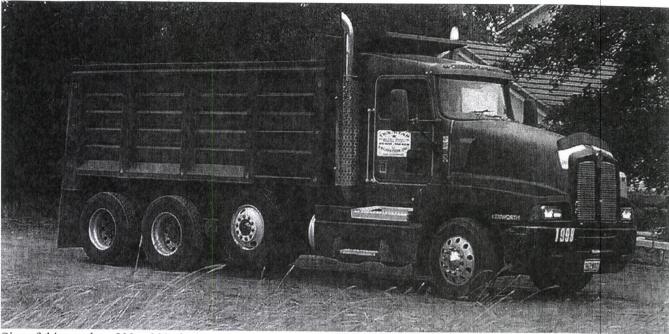
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File:Triaxle dump truck 2005-10-06.km.jpg

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Summary

Dansk: Fireakslet Kenworth lastbil med tiplad. Forreste bagaksel kan løftes og kan formentlig styre. Sådanne aksler kaldes

"pusher aksler" i mange engelsktalende lande

English: Triaxle dump truck

Source

Photo taken 6 October 2005 by Ky MacPherson

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Amendments to House Bill No. 548 3rd Reading Copy

Requested by Representative Daniel Zolnikov

For the Senate Highways and Transportation Committee

Prepared by Casey Barrs March 19, 2013 (10:52AM)

1. Page 1, line 10.
Following: "trucks"
Insert: "trucks"

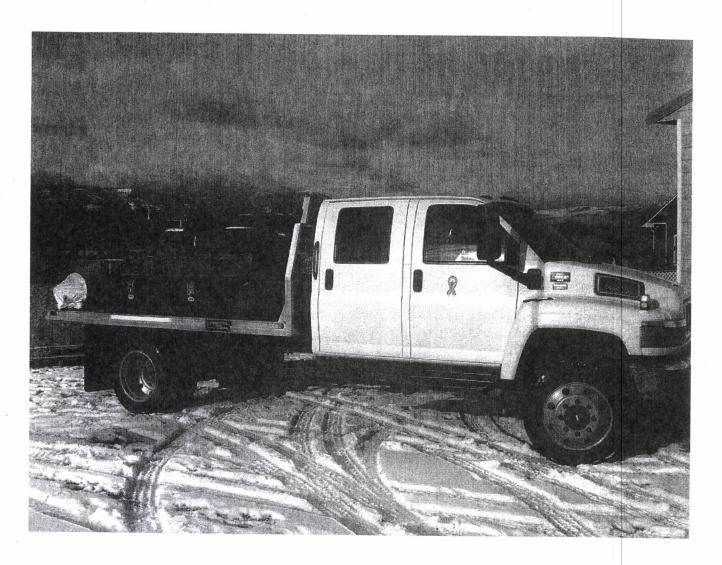
2. Page 1, line 11.
Following: "truck or"
Insert: "truck or"

3. Page 1, line 12.

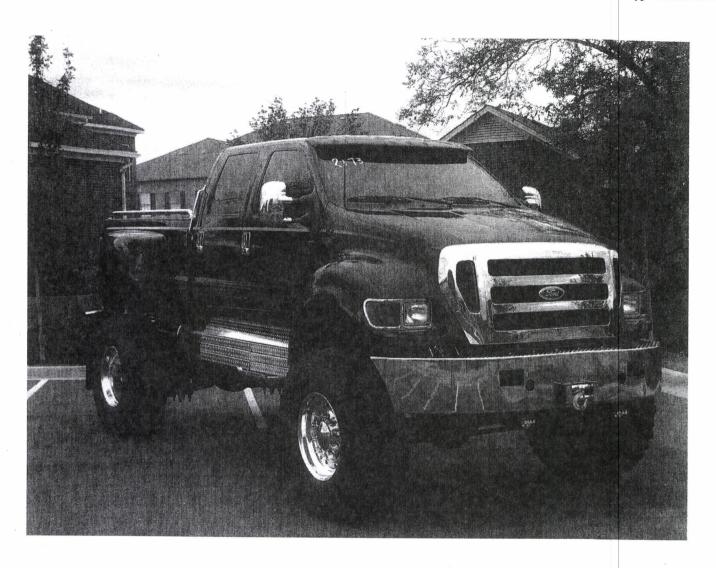
- END -



F-550 Class 5 GVWR-16,001



GMC 5500 Class 6 GVWR - 19,501



F-650 Class 6 GVWR-19,501